

## **F22.039: Diné (Navajo) Parents Taking Action for Autistic Children Pilot Trial**

Faculty mentor: Olivia Lindly

### **Overview**

Few programs currently exist to help educate and train Indigenous families of children with autism or other developmental delays. The student intern would support the implementation and evaluation of the Diné (Navajo) Parents Taking Action pilot trial. Parents Taking Action (PTA) is an evidence-based, parent education and training program that has been adapted for Diné parents and guardians (parents/guardians) of children with autism or other developmental delays in the past year by NAU faculty and community members. The PTA program will involve 12 lessons delivered in-person or via Zoom or telephone by community health workers (Diné parents/guardians of children with autism or other developmental delays who have been trained to deliver the PTA curriculum) to 15 Diné parents/guardians of children with autism or other developmental delays. Preliminary outcomes (e.g., child social communication, parent use of autism services) will be assessed before, during, and after the program. Program fidelity and parent/guardian satisfaction will also be assessed.

### **What the student will DO and LEARN**

The I2S student will learn to collect and analyze qualitative and quantitative study data. The I2S student will assist with community presentations to/meetings with the Navajo Nation and partner organizations in and around Flagstaff. The I2S student will support the development of manuscripts by completing literature reviews, reference management, and the tabular and graphical representation of study results.

### **Additional benefits**

The I2S student will connect with community-based health organizations in and around Flagstaff, as well as on the Navajo Nation. The I2S student will have opportunities to help present study findings and be a co-author on publications. The I2S student will gain mentorship from the PI (Olivia Lindly) and Co-Investigators.

### **Additional qualifications**

- Curiosity
- Willingness to learn
- Attention to detail
- Good communicator

### **Time commitment**

6 hrs/week for 30 weeks